

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 496

UNCLAS OSLO 4196

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC,NO,US(RYSSDAL,SIGNE MARIE STRAY)

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE

1. ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED FOR SIGNE MARIE RYSSDAL, OSLO MUNICIPAL DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND WIFE OF SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE ROLV EINAR RYSSDAL. RYSSDALS WILL ATTEND SEVENTH WORLD LAW CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON OCT 12-17 BUT WILL FIRST BE IN NEW YORK CITY OCT 5-7 AND IN WASHINGTON OCT 9-11. MRS. RYSSDAL WOULD LIKE TO SPEND AT LEAST A MORNING IN NEW YORK CITY VISITING A DAY CARE CENTER AND A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, IN ORDER TO GAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIAL POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE US AND PERHAPS A SIMILAR HALF MORNING IN WASHINGTON DURING CONFERENCE OCT 12-17). SHE WOULD ALSO BE OPEN TO SUGGESTION AND MIGHT BE WILLING TO DEVOTE MORE TIME IF SOMETHING OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE SUGGESTED. MRS. RYSSDAL ARRIVES NEW YORK EVENING OCT 4 AND IN WASHINGTON OCT 8. SHE WILL STAY AT SHERATON PARK IN WASHINGTON BUT DOES NOT YET KNOW HOTEL IN NEW YORK. RYSSDALS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT WILLIAMS-BURG WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

2. MRS. RYSSDAL IS A PROMINENT LAWYER, ADMITTED TO PRACTICE BEFORE SUPREME COURT, AND IMPORTANT FIGURE IN SMALL BUT INFLUENTIAL LIBERAL PARTY. SHE IS OR HAS BEEN: (1) CHAIRWOMAN OF NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD; (2) MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NORWAYS THIRD NEWSPAPER, OSLO LIBERAL DAILY "DAGBLADET",

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OFTEN OUR SHARPEST CRITIC; (3) VICE CHAIRWOMAN OF OSLO

LIBERAL PARTY AND (4) CITY COUNCIL MEMBER. SHE WAS AN
ALTERNATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND IS SAID TO BE CRITICAL OF US
AND ITS SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS. SHE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH.

3. CHIEF JUSTICE RYSSDAL RANKS AHEAD OF PRIME MINISTER
AND JUST AFTER KING AND STORTING PRESIDENT IN NORWEGIAN PROTOCOL.

4. ANY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AND COURTESY SHOWN TO MRS.
RYSSDAL, AND TO CHIEF JUSTICE SHOULD OPPORTUNITY ARISE,
(E.G. IN CONTEXT OF HELPING ARRANGE VISIT TO WILLIAMSBURG) WILL BE
GREATLY APPRECIATED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CABLE BACK IF ASSISTANCE
POSSIBLE, AND NAME ADDRESS AND PHONE OF WHOMEVER MRS.
RYSSDAL SHOULD CONTACT IN NEW YORK.
BYRNE

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